



GERMANY

Capital: Berlin

Language: German

Population: 81 million

Time Zone: EST plus 6 hours

Currency: Euro (€ or EUR)

Electricity: 230V. 50Hz

Fun Facts



- Berlin became home to the biggest train station in Europe in 2006.
- The tallest church in the world, Ulm Cathedral, is in Germany. It is 530 feet high.
- Germans are the second-biggest consumers of beer in the world.

Germany's territory covers 140,000 square miles (population 81 million) and represents one of the heartlands of Central Europe. For 44 years after World War II, both Europe and Germany were divided by the Iron Curtain, symbolized and carried to the extreme by the construction of the Berlin Wall, which enclosed the western part of Berlin and split the former German capital in half. Nevertheless, West Germany experienced an economic miracle after 1945 and its prosperous industries, rising like a phoenix from the ashes, gained a reputation for reliability and quality. November 9, 1989, found the Berliners in happy turmoil; the wall, the infamous symbol of the Cold War, had fallen as a consequence of peaceful protest throughout East Germany. The country was politically unified within a year, although the daily groundwork of growing together again still continues.

Renowned for cultural achievements and for its composers, painters, poets, and philosophers, famous German citizens include composers Bach, Beethoven, Wagner, Brahms, and Mendelssohn; church reformer Luther; writers and poets Goethe, Schiller, Hesse, and Thomas Mann; the painters Dürer, Cranach, Ernst, and Klee; philosophers Kant and Nietzsche; scientists Einstein and Röntgen...and Marlene Dietrich!

Visitors love Germany's romantic images: dense forests, ancient fairytale castles, timber-framed architecture, lakes and mountains, cliffs, ruins, and elaborate gardens. In contrast, large cities like Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne, Munich, and Frankfurt offer vitality, modern urbanity, and avant-garde styles.

Popular foods include *bratwurst* (roast sausage), *kartoffelsalat* (potato salad), *sauerbraten* (marinated beef), *Schwarzwälder kirschtorte* (chocolate sponge cake with cherry brandy and cream), *schwarzbrot* (whole-grain rye bread), and *knödel* (potato or bread dumplings). Outstanding beer is produced in over 1,200 breweries, and excellent wines thrive on the slopes of the southwest, in the Rhine Valley, and Franconia. The most famous event is the annual Munich Oktoberfest, a large outdoor fun festival with exhilarating rides and 14 beer tents; it attracts six million visitors every year for a two-week period ending the first Sunday in October.

Germany's climate varies, regardless of altitude, from wet and unsettled weather in the wind-exposed flat north and northwest, to more calm weather and hot spells further south and southwest. Generally, the Upper Rhine Valley, Main, and Lake Constance area rank among the sunniest. The Alpine regions offer anything from extremely rough to lasting fine spells any time of year. Summer temperatures can reach the 90s; snow could fall anywhere during winter but lasts mainly on the southern hills and in alpine terrain.

There's fine craftsmanship and great shopping possibilities throughout Germany: wood carvings and religious items (Bavaria), cuckoo clocks (originating from the Black Forest), glass, crystal, Meissen and Rosenthal

porcelain, knives and scissors (Solingen), Christmas decorations (Saxony), toys (Nuremberg), lenses (Zeiss Jena)... and BMW, Audi, Volkswagen, and Porsche for quality cars.



VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Visas to Germany are not required for U.S. citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your local consulate about requirements for travel to Germany. All passengers traveling internationally are required to have a passport. Please carry proper identification (your passport) on you and do not leave it in your suitcase or hotel room.

European law requires you to carry your passport with you at all times.



COUNTRY CODES

The country code for Germany is 49. When calling to Germany from overseas, dial your international access code (011 from the U.S./Canada) followed by the country code, area code, and phone number. Phone numbers in Germany are 5-14 digits in length. Dialing from the U.S./Canada: 011 49 #### #### #####.



CURRENCY

The official currency of Germany is the Euro.

Bank hours 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Some branches stay open until 5:30 p.m. Thursdays.

Euro *coins* differ according to country, but they can be used in any EU state. *Bank notes* are of uniform EU design (depicting European architectural styles throughout seven ages, from Classical to Modern times).

1 EURO (€) = 100 Cents (c)

- Banknote denominations: €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200, €500
- Coin denominations: 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, €1, €2

For the most current exchange rates, please go to our Web site at www.globusfamily.com/currency.

Credit cards are accepted in Germany, and you should have no problems using them in larger shops and restaurants. Visa and MasterCard are most accepted. Smaller shops may ask you to pay in cash or have a minimum amount required to use a credit card.



BUDGETING AND SHOPPING

The following budget guidelines are just approximate values or starting values for meals and are per person. Actual prices will vary widely by restaurant and city within a country but below are some averages as provided by our experienced personnel.

The approximate cost of a soft drink/mineral water/coffee is €3-4.

An average lunch consisting of a salad or sandwich and a soda or water starts at approximately €8-15.

A steak dinner at a mid-range restaurant with dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage starts at approximately €30-40.



TIPPING

Restaurants in Germany generally do not add a service charge to the bill. Therefore, tips are recommended. 10-15% is a reasonable amount, and tips are usually left in cash and not added to the credit card payment.

For taxis, round up the fare to the nearest whole dollar 1-2 Euro as a tip. Tip hotel staff, €1 for room service

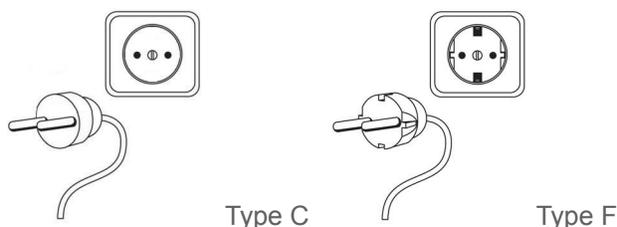
A few coins will be needed for public restrooms. If there is a saucer with coins in a restroom, it is expected of you to leave small change as a tip.



ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Voltage for outlets is 230V. North American voltage is generally 110V. Therefore, a converter may be necessary for your travels. Adapters will be necessary to adapt your plug into the outlet but may not convert the voltage, so both devices are necessary.

Germany uses a round, 2-prong plug that looks like:



Type C

Type F



TEMPERATURES

Germany's summers are warm and sunny, often extending well into October. Winters are relatively mild, apart from the mountainous regions. Layers are your best option while traveling here. Rain gear is recommended year-round.

To help you plan, below are average low and high temperatures for Berlin.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
26/35°F	27/39°F	33/47°F	37/54°F	45/65°F	53/70°F	56/73°F	55/73°F	50/66°F	42/56°F	35/45°F	30/38°F

To convert to Celsius, subtract 32, then multiply by 5 and then divide by 9.



FOOD SPECIALTIES

Bratwurst (roast sausage), *kartoffelsalat* (potato salad), *sauerbraten* (marinated beef), *Schwarzwälder kirschtorte* (chocolate sponge cake with cherry brandy and cream), *schwarzbrot* (whole-grain rye bread), *knödel* (potato or bread dumplings), beer, and wine.



A FEW WORDS OF THE LOCAL LANGUAGE

German:

Good morning: Guten Morgen, **Good Day:** Guten Tag, **Good evening:** Guten Abend, **Please/You're welcome:** Bitte, **Thank you:** Danke, **Yes:** Ja, **No:** Nein, **Do you speak English?:** Sprechen Sie Englisch?, **I don't understand:** Ich verstehe nicht, **Please write it down:** Können Sie das bitte aufschreiben? **How much?:** Wieviel kostet das?, **1:** Eins, **2:** Zwei, **3:** Drei, **4:** Vier, **5:** Fünf, **6:** Sechs, **7:** Sieben, **8:** Acht, **9:** Neun, **10:** Zehn, **Where is...?:** Wo ist...?, **Telephone:** Telefon, **Bathroom:** Toilette, **Tea:** Tee, **Coffee:** Kaffee, **Bottled water:** Mineralwasser (**carbonated**=mit Kohlensäure, **non-carbonated**= ohne Kohlensäure), **Cheers!:** Prost!, **Restaurant check/bill:** Die Rechnung.

Last Updated 6/16/15